

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15096 191436Z

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03

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R 191024Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6878

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, TH

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 203561 (NOTAL)

1. ECON/CML COUNSELOR CALLED ON DR. SIRILAK, UNDER SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, SEPT 18, TO REVIEW PREPARATIONS AND GENERAL POSITIONS FOR OCT 28 CONSULTATIONS. MAIN RESULT WAS CONFIRMATION THAT RTG ROUTE OBJECTIVES IN NEXT ROUND WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS THOSE FLOATED IN JUNE. IN TERMS OF POLICY, DR. SIRILAK STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THAI QUEST FOR "EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" AND "RECIPROCITY," BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS THAT FOR HIM "EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY" MEANS GIVING RTG ROUTE DESCRIPTION WHICH IS MIRROR IMAGE OF U.S. ROUTE DESCRIPTION, AND THAT "RECIPROCITY" MEANS SOMETHING AKIN TO ACTUAL CONDUCT OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, RECIPROCITY IN PRACTICE IS IN THE FUTURE, GIVEN THE SMALL SIZE AND LIMITED RESOURCES OF THE TWO THAI AIRLINES. DR. SIRILAK WAS ADAMANT THAT USG PROPOSAL IN JUNE TO DELETE

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 15096 191436Z

NEW YORK FROM RTG ROUTE DESCRIPTION WAS ATTEMPT BY USG

TO DEPRIVE RTG OF "EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY."

2. DR. SIRILAK DECLINED TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF AN ORDER OF PRIORITIES FOR THAI OBJECTIVES IN UPCOMING TALKS. (DR. SRISOOK, THE SON, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION STATED WITHOUT HESITATION THAT RTG'S FIRST PRIORITY IN TALKS WILL BE ACCESS TO GUAM AND BEYOND TO TOKYO AND AMERICAN SAMOA.) HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO OTHER THAI AIRLINE OBJECTIVES, DR. SIRILAK SAID THAI INTERNATIONAL HOPES OVER TIME TO OPEN FOLLOWING ROUTES: (1) BANGKOK-MANILA-DJAKARTA AND/OR MICRONESIA AND (2) BANGKOK-SINGAPORE-DJAKARTA-TAHITI. IN REGARD SPECIFIC PLANS, DR. SIRILAK SAID (1) RTG HOPES TO OPEN TALKS WITH FRENCH IN NEXT FEW MONTHS IN EFFORT SECURE RIGHTS AT TAHITI AND (2) RTG DOES NOT HAVE RIGHTS FROM JAPAN FOR TOKYO-GUAM SECTOR AND DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO SEEK SUCH RIGHTS UNLESS AND UNTIL USG ACCORDS NECESSARY RIGHTS AT GUAM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION THAT ATMOSPHERE FOR FORTH-COMING TALKS WOULD BE IMPROVED BY RTG DECISION TO PERMIT PAA TO RESUME, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, FLIGHTS 841/842, DR. SIRILAK SAID INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HAD CONSIDERED AND REJECTED, THAT OPTION. (IN CALL ON DEPUTY TO MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ON SEPT 18, PAA REP SECURED PROMISE ONLY THAT DEPUTY WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER.)

4. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION PRIOR TO CALL ON DR. SIRILAK, EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO RELAY TO DEPARTMENT RTG REQUEST BY DR. SRISOOK THAT DEPARTMENT ALLOT AT LEAST FIVE DAYS FOR TALKS IN BANGKOK. DR. SRISOOK AGREED TO EMBODY PROPOSAL I NOTE TO BE SENT TO EMBASSY BY MFA, FORMALIZING REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING OCT 28. DR. SRISOOK SAID COMPOSITION OF THAIDEL WILL BE SAME AS THAT TO JUNE TALKS. KINTNER

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